

Newsletter

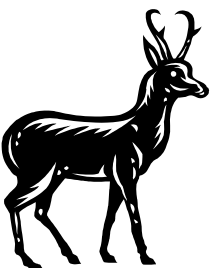
Anderson Mesa Landscape Scale Assessment

Volume 1, Issue 1

Mogollon Rim & Mormon Lake Ranger Districts

October 2003

Welcome to the first of our Anderson Mesa Landscape Scale Assessment Newsletters. We are expecting to publish and distribute four newsletters between October 2003 and the completion of the Assessment document in October 2004. It is our desire to keep those of you who have shown an interest in the management of Anderson Mesa up to date on the progress of the Assessment.



April 2003 Public Meetings

The Anderson Mesa Landscape Scale Assessment (LSA) was officially kicked-off with two public workshops on April 3 in Flagstaff and April 5 in Happy Jack. People from throughout the region attended these workshops to hear the US Forest Service describe the project and lend their voice to how it should proceed.

The LSA is an attempt to assess the existing conditions on the Mesa as well as identify the desired future conditions from the perspective of the many people who place value on its resources. Among the values identified were:

- Natural and Wilderness
- Preservation of Undeveloped Open Space
- Historic Uses
- Preservation of Historic and Prehistoric Values
- Wildlife
- Restoration and Maintenance of Healthy Grasslands
- Sustainability of the Resources in Balance with Local Economics and Multiple Use Concept

The Forest Service has established several agency focus groups to collect information and conduct the technical aspects of the project. The six groups are focusing on the following resource areas:

- Wetlands
- Recreation
- Vegetation
- Hay Lake and Acquired Lands
- Roads and Transportation
- Wildlife

During the workshops, an opportunity was provided for participants to interact with leaders of these focus groups. Participants were asked to map the values they attach to the Mesa, as well as comment on the draft existing conditions summary prepared by the focus groups. In addition, they began the process of identifying desired future conditions for the Mesa.

In the months following the workshops, the focus groups have been incorporating the comments received and refining their draft existing and desired future conditions. A Citizens



Working Group has been established to provide input to the focus groups and project outcomes. Other public outreach efforts include a series of newsletters to provide informational updates, continued efforts to obtain input from interested individuals and groups, as well as a second round of public workshops planned for later in the process.

The outcomes from the LSA include a much clearer sense of the existing and desired future conditions on the Mesa, a series of potential management strategies to achieve the desired conditions identified, and potential amendments to the Forest Land Management Plan.

While the LSA results in a planning document only, not a decision document, it will provide invaluable input to future decision making.

Target date for completion of the assessment is September 2004

Coconino National Forest
Mogollon Rim Ranger District
HC 31, Box 300
Happy Jack, Arizona 86024

For further information contact:

Carol Holland
Mogollon Rim Ranger District
HC 31, Box 300
Happy Jack, AZ 86024
928-477-2255
E-mail: cjholland@fs.fed.us

***We're on the web!!
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino
Click on 'projects and plans'***

Citizens Working Group Members Chosen

During and after the April workshops, workshop participants and other known organizations with an interest in Anderson Mesa were asked to express their interest in participating on the Citizens Working Group (CWG).

In an effort to keep the CWG at a manageable size, not everyone could be accommodated. The Forest Service attempted, however, to engage as broad a cross-section as possible to be represented on the CWG. This is essential to meeting the objectives of the LSA and to the future of Anderson Mesa. As such, the following organizations and individuals were selected to be part of the CWG:

Arizona Antelope Foundation
Jerry Guevin

Arizona Wildlife Federation
Don Farmer

Bar T Bar Ranch
Bob Prosser

Diablo Trust
Norm Wallen

Ducks Unlimited
Jeff McCreary

Northern Arizona Audubon Society
Elaine Morrall

Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition-
Kyle Roseborrough

Rim Country 4 Wheelers
Charlie Conover

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Lyle Button

Southwest Forest Alliance
Kim Crumbo

The Hopi Tribe
Norman Honani

Wildlife Conservation Council
Don Martin

Tentative Schedule for Citizens Working Group Meetings

The following is the tentative schedule for joint Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Citizen Working Group meetings.

January 22, 2004
Location: Flagstaff, Arizona

March 11, 2004
Location: Camp Verde, Arizona

April 22, 2004
Location: Happy Jack, Arizona

July 8, 2004
Location: Flagstaff, Arizona